

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 001010

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
JCS PASS J-5/CDR S. WRIGHT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

PM Erdogan: US, Turkey Understand Each Other - Sabah
Schroeder to Bush: Iran Is Not Like Iraq - Hurriyet
Bush, Schroeder Agree: Iran's Nukes Won't Be Allowed -
Milliyet
Germany Provides Bush Support - Turkiye
US Grants \$9 Million for Education - Sabah
Turkey Not Invited to Aid to Palestine Conference in London
- Milliyet
Pope Says Assassination Attempt on Him Backed By the Soviet
Ideology - Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Erdogan Issues Warm Message: US Is Our Ally - Radikal
Washington Awaits Ankara's Response on Use of Incirlik
Airbase - Cumhuriyet
US Grant Supports Turkish Schools - Radikal
Bush Thanks Germany, Warns Iran, Syria - Zaman
77 Percent of Germans Do Not Trust Bush - Yeni Safak
Kurds, Turkmen, Sunnis Fully Support Jaafari - Yeni Safak
Bush Sends Condolences to Iran, Offers Help - Cumhuriyet
81 Percent of Americans Prefer a Woman President -
Cumhuriyet
Lebanese PM Ready to Resign - Radikal
Interpol Warns of Biological Attack By Al-Qaida - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

PM Erdogan Confident of Strong Ties With US: PM Tayyip
Erdogan said Turkey maintains friendly relations with the
United States. Erdogan told an AK Party group meeting on
Wednesday that communication problems that emerged
sporadically between friendly allies will not harm bilateral
ties. He said Turkey's interests with regard to regional
peace necessitated that communication channels be kept open.
'We have always stated that we want a democratic and
integrated Iraq in which Iraqi people can use their right to
self-administration,' Erdogan noted, adding that Turkey
expected coalition forces to restore peace and stability in
Iraq. Erdogan later told a private all-news channel that
the presence of Turkish contractors in Iraq indicated one
fact: Cooperation and togetherness with the US.
"Cumhuriyet" claims that Erdogan's remarks claiming strong
ties with the US brought only limited relief to the strained
relations between Ankara and Washington. US sources
allegedly told the paper that keeping US-Turkey relations on
firm ground would take time, and that it depended on a
steadfast commitment by PM Erdogan.

US Awaits Turkey's Response on Use of Incirlik Airbase: The
US is waiting for Turkey's response to an application for
the use of Incirlik Airbase as a logistical cargo hub for
delivering equipment to American operations in Iraq and
Afghanistan, writes "Cumhuriyet." MFA spokesman Namik Tan
said at a weekly press conference that the request was being
evaluated. The AK Party government is planning to approve
the US request under an earlier cabinet decision made in
line with UN resolutions on Iraq, "Cumhuriyet" speculates.
However, the Turkish government is afraid of public
reaction, and is worried that such a shift will diminish
Turkey's border trade with Iraq, says the paper.

Erdogan Advisor Sees No Tension in Ties With US: Turkey-US
Parliamentary Friendship Group chairman and PM Tayyip
Erdogan's advisor Egemen Bagis stressed to a general
assembly of the Turkish-American Business Council the
significance of Turkey-US relations: 'There is no strain in
bilateral ties. Both countries collaborate in the Balkans,
the Middle East and the Caucasus.' Bagis noted that PM
Erdogan, few days after the March 1 rejection of deployment

of US troops in Iraq through Turkish soil, had taken a significant political risk by convincing the parliament to open Turkish airspace to US aircraft. Turkey later provided significant logistical support to coalition forces, Bagis added. On the Bush-Erdogan meeting at the NATO summit in Brussels Tuesday, Bagis said both leaders understood and respected one another's sensitivities. He also said that Turkey's 'sensitivities' on US actions in Iraq are no greater than those of other European and Middle Eastern countries.

Turkish Delegation to Meet Talabani: A Turkish delegation of senior officials from the MFA and TGS will travel to Iraq today to meet with Jalal Talabani, "Hurriyet" reports. Both Turkey and Iraq want the visit to remain discreet, claims the paper. The Turkish delegation, headed by Iraq Special Envoy Osman Koruturk, went to Diyarbakir Wednesday and will proceed to northern Iraq today. Turks will warn Talabani against 'provocative' statements on Iraq's territorial and political unity and on the status of Kirkuk, says the paper. Talabani will be also told that if elected president, he should reach out to all Iraqi people, including the Sunnis, according to "Hurriyet." On Wednesday, MFA Spokesman Namik Tan spoke positively of Talabani and of Ibrahim Jaafari, the leading candidate for Iraq prime minister. 'They are both experienced statesmen who know Turkey well,' Tan said, adding that Jaafari held 'fruitful' talks with PM Erdogan and FM Gul during his visit to Ankara in December.

US Grant for Turkish Schoolchildren: US Ambassador Eric Edelman paid a visit to an elementary school in Ankara Wednesday to see the use of a \$9 million US loan given to a World Bank project for reducing social risks in Turkey, papers report. Ambassador Edelman was accompanied by the Minister of Education Huseyin Celik. 'US-Turkey relationship is one of shared values and shared principles,' Edelman said, and stressed that every child should have the opportunity, no matter what their social, religious or ethnic background, to have the best possible education. Minister Celik expressed gratitude to Edelman for the grant, and said that Turkey had no strain in ties with the US, a country which is a Turkish partner and ally, papers report.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Transatlantic Relations

"The US and Europe"

Hadi Uluengin comments in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (2/24): "It seems President Bush recognized the importance and value of Europe during his second term. His trip demonstrates his intention to focus on European political and strategic issues. . The meeting between Bush and Chirac not only improved bilateral relations but indicated the change in the Bush administration's approach to major issues such as Iraq, Iran, and Syria. Bush demonstrated a style of leadership that includes working with his European partners. Chirac also presented a flexible stance. It is also important that Bush touched on Middle East issues, particularly the need for a Palestinian state. . A conclusion can be drawn, with cautious optimism, in the aftermath of the Bush visit to Europe: during his second term, President Bush seems ready to work for the normalization of transatlantic relations. This is a positive development that benefits all humanity."

"How to Improve the Relations"

Sami Kohen opines in the mass appeal Milliyet (2/24): "Apparently the growing debate about 'anti-Americanism' in Turkey have caused serious disturbances in both Washington and Ankara. Officials are now trying to ease tensions over this issue. Naturally, everyone who understand the importance of US-Turkey relations finds this initiative useful. It is too much, however, to expect the elimination of an anti-American atmosphere in Turkey overnight. There are marginal circles in Turkey who dislike the US because of its ideological obsessions. In addition, it will take longer to eliminate the anti-American sentiment that grew up within the general public as a result of the Bush Administration's policies. Media, NGOs, politicians, and government officials in both countries have a great responsibility to ease the tension in bilateral relations. No doubt, the Turkish people are disappointed that the US did not fulfill their expectations in northern Iraq and the fight against PKK terrorism. These factors play an important role in anti-American sentiments. However, these problems cannot be solved by creating hostile feelings toward the US. The only solution lies in acting with common sense and restraint and continuing our cooperation."

"Did Bush Convince Europe?"

Ibrahim Karagul argues in the Islamist "Yeni Safak" (2/24): "Europeans had certain objections regarding Bush's policies. In the aftermath of the Bush visit to Europe, there is no significant change in those reservations. Unlike the Bush administration, European leaders such as Schroeder and Chirac continue to defend the importance of the United Nations and the need for reform within NATO in order for the Europeans to play a decisive role in global affairs."

European leaders continue to express uneasiness over US influence in eastern Europe. . The differences will never come to an end unless the US gives up vying for sole global leadership. Those who expect better relations between the US and Europe will have to wait for a long time. President Bush's visit to Europe was a failure. We can only expect growing anti-American sentiment in Europe even more than before."

EDELMAN